



---

## NEWS

---

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **VETERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEADER JOINS EXECUTIVE STAFF OF NATIONAL PRINCIPAL ASSOCIATION**

Alexandria, VA—June 10, 2008—The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) announced the appointment of Michael Schooley, Ed.D., a highly regarded veteran of K-8 education, as the Association's chief advocacy and membership officer. Schooley will fill a newly created position designed to help advance the mission and vision of NAESP and provide operational leadership and direction for outreach and engagement with NAESP constituencies and a wide variety of organizations.

"Dr. Schooley is a quintessential elementary school principal who is ideally suited to fill a key advocacy and membership role within our Association," said NAESP Executive Director Gail Connelly. "His dynamic leadership will influence educational policy at all levels on behalf of our nation's 65,000 elementary and middle-level principals and the nearly 35 million schoolchildren they serve."

The NAESP Board of Directors encouraged the hiring of Schooley, a 30-year elementary school principal and recent member of the NAESP Board of Directors, as a key strategy toward achieving the Association's new Vision Goals:

- **Leading**—NAESP nurtures and supports all principals to demonstrate the vision, courage, and expertise to lead and advocate for effective learning communities in which all children reach their highest potential.
- **Learning**—NAESP develops and supports all principals by providing on-demand learning opportunities that ensure access to the knowledge, skills, networks, and tools necessary to equip all students for the 21st century.
- **Communities**—NAESP develops and sustains local, state, national, and global networks that create powerful relationships for effective leadership and learning.

"We are pleased that Dr. Schooley will fill this important new deputy-level role with NAESP," said President Mary Kay Sommers. "His strong leadership experience and background as an elementary school principal coupled with his passion for the mission and vision of NAESP will assure us that our Association remains focused on meeting the unique needs of our members and students in pre-K through eighth grade in this 21st century."

Prior to his appointment, Schooley was principal of Derby Ridge Elementary School in Columbia, Missouri, for 17 years. He has received numerous awards throughout his career, including the 2008 Outstanding Service Award by the Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals and the 2004 Outstanding Administrator for the Columbia Public Schools. He served on NAESP's Board from 2005-2008 and was president of the Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals

from 2003-2004. He earned his B.S. from Missouri Western State College, his M.S. from Northwest Missouri State University, and his Ed.D. from the University of Missouri.

Schooley will work closely with NAESP's executive director and president in a shared-leadership role to ensure that NAESP is principal-led, member-driven, and business-focused.

“It is absolutely critical for those of us in leadership roles to reach out and identify quality principals who possess the talents and skills necessary to take our Association to the next level,” said Schooley. “Building capacity in these future leaders is the one sure way NAESP will be able to continue to lead and influence the education and leadership agendas across our nation.”

####

Established in 1921, the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) serves 30,000 elementary and middle school principals in the United States, Canada, and overseas. NAESP leads in the advocacy and support for elementary and middle-level principals and other education leaders in their commitment to all children.